



# Groundhog Day and other Methods of Weather Forecasting

It's Groundhog Day!

Wintertime will not end soon--that's what some people say!

But today I must get up, because it is Groundhog Day.

I poke my head out of my hole and peek all around. Look! I see my shadow, lying on the ground.

I quickly jump back in my hole. Now what do I do? "Back to bed," I say. Winter isn't through!

-- From *Weekly Reader, Edition Pre-K (including Science Spin)*, Jan  
2004 v24 pSSS1(5) "Wake up! It's Groundhog Day!"

## Websites about Groundhog Day and Weather Forecasting

The Official Site of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club

<http://www.groundhog.org/>

StormFax Weather Groundhog Day

<http://www.stormfax.com/ghogday.htm#Facts>

Web Weather for Kids

[http://www.ucar.edu/educ\\_outreach/webweather/predict.html](http://www.ucar.edu/educ_outreach/webweather/predict.html)

Weather Wiz Kids

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/index.htm>

**Books You May Want to Read** (Hint: go to the TEL Database, **What Do I Read Next** and choose to do a Custom Search. Under Subject, choose **Weather** and then uncheck Adult and Young Adults at the top of the screen.)

**Go to sleep, Groundhog** by Judy Cox; illustrated by Paul Meisel

When Groundhog is unable to sleep, he experiences autumn and winter holidays he never knew about, and then he finally falls asleep before Groundhog Day.

**Groundhog Day** by Michelle Aki Becker; consultant, Don L. Curry

Introduces the history of Groundhog Day and explains how it is observed today.

**Scholastic atlas of weather**

A guide to weather phenomena and climate which explains precipitation, ocean currents, weather prediction, pollution, and global warming, plus activities, weather facts, records, and statistics.



# Groundhog Day and other Methods of Weather Forecasting

**Weather** by Brian Cosgrove

Photographs and text depict different aspects of weather and how it is forecast.

**Forecasting the weather** by Alan Rodgers and Angella Streluk

An introduction to weather forecasting, describing some of the methods and tools used.

## To Find More about Groundhog Day and Weather Forecasting

In TEL, go to **Kids InfoBits** or **Junior Edition - K12** and use the following search strategies:

Candlemas

Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania

Weather forecasting

National Weather Service

Meteorology

Meteorologist

## To Make Your Own Weather Station, check out this website:

<http://www.fi.edu/weather/todo/todo.html>

After making your Weather Station, you should track your local weather and find out if it is the same as what the newscasters report. Here is some help from The Education Place:

1. Every day for one week (Monday through Friday), go outside and measure as many of these variables as you can: temperature, daily precipitation, wind direction, and wind speed. Try to take the measurements at about the same time each day. Record the readings on an observation chart. You can get an observation chart at <http://www.eduplace.com/activity/pdf/track1.pdf>.
2. Every day you take readings, look up the actual and predicted weather data reported by official sources. Record the relevant data on your table. You can find data in the newspaper or on the World Wide Web.
3. At the end of the week, challenge your class to analyze the week's data. Find the average daily precipitation for the week. Find the average temperature for the week. Make graphs of the daily temperature, precipitation, and wind direction. Compare your class's data with the official data and lead a discussion to explain the differences.

See the website Weather Wiz Kids at

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/WxExperiments.htm> for more weather experiments.